

In the Claims:

Amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (once amended) A method for manufacturing a pleadable filter material from a thermally bonded non-woven fabric, comprising the steps of:

forming a fibrous web from drawn and undrawn synthetic fibers;

calendering the fibrous web;

bonding the undrawn fibers in the fibrous web in a tension-free manner between profiled calender rolls to form the non-woven fabric, without inhomogeneities over the cross-section of the non-woven fabric and without the use of flat bonding;

forming spacers in the non-woven fabric to thereby form the filter material.

Remarks

In the office action mailed June 9, 1998, the examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and rejected claims 1-4 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Nakamura et al., Norton, and Shinjou or Schultheiss et al.

The examiner has rejected claim 1 as indefinite, asserting that it is "unclear what is difference (sic) between a calendered fibrous web ... and a nonwoven fabric." "Calendering" is a well-known term of art, and means pressing paper or cloth through rollers. See The American Heritage Dictionary 229 (2d College ed. 1991). Thus a calendered fibrous web is a web which has been passed between two rollers. This is in contrast to the nonwoven fabric, which is the condition of the material of the present invention before calendering. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is clear and definite, and therefore that the examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, must be withdrawn.